



Embargoed Release

2.30pm, Saturday, 1 September 2018

BULAN BAHASA 2018 DEBUTS COMMEMORATIVE VIDEO CELEBRATING A 30 YEAR MILESTONE

1 September 2018 – Celebrating 30 years since the first edition of *Bulan Bahasa* was held by *Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura* (MBMS or the Malay Language Council, Singapore) in 1988, *Bulan Bahasa* 2018 (Malay Language Month) was officially launched this afternoon.

Minister for Education, Mr Ong Ye Kung, was Guest of Honour at today's launch, held at Wisma Geylang Serai (WGS). *Bulan Bahasa* will run for two months, from 18 August to 14 October 2018. The variety of programmes, events and activities, presented by community partners, will showcase the versatility of the Malay language, as they continue to be anchored by the themes of *Bulan Bahasa – Ilmu* (Knowledge), *Budaya* (Culture) and *Mesra* (Relationships).

A commemorative video documenting *Bulan Bahasa*'s 30-year journey was also presented today. It encapsulates the contributions of leaders and community towards the development of the Malay language in Singapore, and features many anecdotes from the Malay Language Council, Singapore and the *Bulan Bahasa* Committee, past and present.

A Day of Celebrations

As the new Malay social, cultural and heritage hub, Wisma Geylang Serai (WGS) sets a fitting backdrop for the launch, reinforcing Geylang Serai's role as a social centre for the Malay community in Singapore.

Visitors to WGS were engaged in an array of exciting activities and performances presented by partners, schools, *Duta Bahasa* and *Rakan Bahasa*, encouraging them to appreciate the Malay language and culture.

At the launch ceremony, Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Chairman of the *Bulan Bahasa* Committee, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to continue the legacy built by the community and past chairpersons of the *Bulan Bahasa* Committee. She also emphasised the effort and dedication put in by various *Duta Bahasa* to make *Bulan Bahasa* celebrations special this year.

"Many *Duta Bahasa* have been actively involved in the planning of the launch celebrations today," says Mdm Rahayu. "This reflects the passion of our *Duta Bahasa* in making the language come alive and our confidence that it would continue to remain relevant."

"My hope is for the community to be inspired by such efforts, and I encourage everyone to take up the baton in promoting the use of the Malay language. Ensuring the continued use of the language is



a concerted effort, and I call upon everyone in the community, especially parents to spend more time with the children, to use the Malay language at home. We have to instill pride and confidence in our young, when they use the language,” adds Mdm Rahayu.

On behalf of the Bulan Bahasa Committee, Mdm Rahayu Mahzam has also expressed a commitment to encourage partners to present language appreciation programmes and opportunities, beyond *Bulan Bahasa*, and also to seeking out new partners to bring into the *Bulan Bahasa* fold, as this would ensure continuity of its mission and efforts.

***Bulan Bahasa* in the Heartlands**

Bulan Bahasa 2018 celebrations will continue to take place in the heartlands of Jurong, Sembawang, Nee Soon, Chua Chu Kang, Tampines and Marsiling (new). Dates and venues for the celebrations are as follows:

Celebration	Date	Venue
Bulan Bahasa @ Jurong	8 September 2018 (AM)	J Link
Bulan Bahasa @ Sembawang	8 September 2018 (PM)	Woodlands Regional Library
Bulan Bahasa @ Nee Soon	15 September 2018	Nee Soon Central CC (Hardcourt)
Bulan Bahasa @ Chua Chu Kang	22 September 2018	Keat Hong CC
Bulan Bahasa @ Tampines	29 September 2018	Our Tampines Hub
Bulan Bahasa @ Marsiling & Woodgrove [NEW]	13 October 2018	Fuchun CC

For *Bulan Bahasa*'s full programme listings, please visit the website for *Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura* at: <https://mbms.sg>. To download the calendar of events for *Bulan Bahasa* 2018 please visit <https://tinyurl.com/BulanBahasa2018>, or follow its social media platforms for updates at <facebook.com/majlisbahasa> or @BulanBahasa on Instagram. To watch videos related to MBMS or *Bulan Bahasa*, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/mbmssg>.

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### **For more information and interview arrangements, please contact:**

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### **About *Bulan Bahasa* by the *Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura***

*Bulan Bahasa* (Malay Language Month) was first launched as a biennial event in 1988 by *Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura* (MBMS or the Malay Language Council, Singapore). Since 2011, it has become an annual celebration that continues to attract community interest, participation and support.

As a signature initiative of the MBMS, *Bulan Bahasa* is focused on encouraging the community to embrace and use the Malay language in their daily lives. It also aims to instill a deeper appreciation for the Malay culture, and promote the preservation of the community's rich heritage.

For more information about MBMS, and *Bulan Bahasa*, please visit [mbms.sg](http://mbms.sg) and [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://facebook.com/majlisbahasa).



## For Immediate Use

### Programme Highlights for the Launch of *Bulan Bahasa* 2018 - Saturday, 1 September at the Event Space, Wisma Geylang Serai

*All programmes are free unless otherwise indicated.*

#### ***Bangsawan Staging of Tajul Arifin by Sriwana***

Be mesmerised by the colourful costumes and classical Malay music in a re-staged *bangsawan* performance, *Tajul Arifin*, which was originally put up in 1991. Join Sriwana as they invite the audience to experience a truly rich and traditional *bangsawan* performance through a traditional folklore based on Tajul Arifin, the prince of Zamzahari who was betrayed by his brothers, Tajul Asrul and Tajul Asyik.

**Time:** 2.30pm – 3.00pm

#### ***Juara Si Cilik by Nusantara World Music***

For a dose of cuteness overload, join Nusantara World Music in the fifth edition of *Juara Si Cilik* singing contest where students bring traditional Malay folk songs to life.

**Time:** 3.15pm – 5.15pm

#### **Activity Booths by Schools**

Test your knowledge on the Malay language, culture and heritage through interactive activities at the various booths presented by the students from Orchid Park Secondary School, Admiralty Primary School, Yusof Ishak Secondary School and School of Science and Technology, Singapore.

**Time:** Programme starts at 11.00am and is conducted throughout the day

#### ***Mari Bermain Permainan Bahasa bersama Rakan Bahasa – Language Games with Friends of the Language***

While you quench your thirst at the beverages and ice-cream booth sponsored by F&N, participate in language related games conducted by the *Rakan Bahasa*. Games will be conducted in Malay, with versions available in English for non-Malay speakers.

**Time:** Programme starts 11.00am and is conducted throughout the day



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**Details of Videos produced by the *Bulan Bahasa* Committee**

***Menyingkap 30 Tahun Perjalanan Bulan Bahasa (30 years of Bulan Bahasa - A Commemorative Video)***

As MBMS celebrates a significant milestone, marking 30 years since the first edition of *Bulan Bahasa* was organised, a commemorative video was put together to feature the contributions of significant leaders and the community for *Bulan Bahasa*. To watch the full video, please visit [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://facebook.com/majlisbahasa)

***Bahasa Menjunjung Budaya – A Music Video***

A music video, featuring many *Bulan Bahasa* pioneers, MBMS members, the *Bulan Bahasa* Committee members, *Duta Bahasa* and friends singing *Bahasa Menjunjung Budaya*. The original score for this song was composed in 1988 by Mr Abdolah Lamat, with lyrics written by the late Dr Muhammad Ariff Ahmad. The 2018 arrangement is by *Duta Bahasa* Megat Firdaus. The video features participation by the following (in alphabetical order):

|                         |                                                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| ➤ Mr Abdolah Lamat      | ➤ Mr Megat Firdaus                                    |
| ➤ Ms Aidli Mosbit       | ➤ A/P Dr Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim                     |
| ➤ Mdm Asnida Daud       | ➤ Ms Munirah Jaafar                                   |
| ➤ Mr Asri Sunawan       | ➤ Ms Nafisah Ismail                                   |
| ➤ Mr Bakti Khair        | ➤ Ms Noshin Putri Adel                                |
| ➤ Mr Chairul Fahmy      | ➤ Ms Nur Sifa Hussin                                  |
| ➤ Mr Farizan Amin       | ➤ Ms Nurfarhana M Noor                                |
| ➤ A/P Dr Hadijah Rahmat | ➤ Mdm Rahayu Mahzam                                   |
| ➤ Mr Hairianto Diman    | ➤ Mr Shahrizal Salleh (Chef Bob)                      |
| ➤ Mr Hanafi Idrus       | ➤ Mr Sidek Saniff                                     |
| ➤ Mr Hassan Salleh      | ➤ Ms Siti Aisyah Binte Mohamed Salim (Chempaka Aizim) |
| ➤ Mr Hisham Hasim       | ➤ Mr Suhaimi Salleh                                   |
| ➤ Dr Jazlan Joosoph     | ➤ Mr Tajudin Jaffar                                   |
| ➤ Ms Julina Khusaini    | ➤ Ms Zaza Majid                                       |
| ➤ Ms Marina Yusoff      |                                                       |

To watch the full music video, please visit [facebook.com/majlisbahasa](https://facebook.com/majlisbahasa)



### **Gerak Tari Bulan Bahasa – A Dance Tutorial Video**

This video features a dance tutorial, inviting audiences to learn the dance steps to the *Bulan Bahasa* theme song, *Bahasa Menjunjung Budaya*. The song, originally composed in 1988, with lyrics by the late Cikgu Muhammad Ariff Ahmad and the score by Cikgu Abdolah Lamat was given a refreshed take by *Duta Bahasa*, Megat Firdaus. This new rendition, which is a fusion of traditional *zapin* melody and an upbeat tempo, is accompanied by traditional Malay dance steps and modern ones. To make *Bulan Bahasa* celebrations livelier, the community was invited to take part in a dance challenge, *Cabaran Gerak Tari Bulan Bahasa*, where they can upload versions of the dance video.

To watch the full tutorial, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/BBCGT2018>. To watch video submissions from the community, please visit @BulanBahasa on Instagram.